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REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated December 4, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on March 4, 2008. Applicants have attached a Petition for a One Month Extension of Time, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.136, extending the statutory period until April 4, 2008. Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the above noted amendments and the following remarks in response to the Office Action.

CLAIM REJECTIONS:

Claims 31-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants have cancelled claims 31-33, without prejudice, thereby obviating the rejection.

Claims 17-34 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,595,846 (*Rouzier*). *Rouzier* teaches a liquid stage tubular reactor with decreasing pressures from one end to the other of the reactor ("and thus from the start to the end of the reaction"). *See*, column 3, lines 35-45. The reaction medium circulates in distinct doses partitioned off by moveable separators.

In contrast, the pending claims recite a slurry loop reactor. As is known to one skilled in the art, a loop reactor requires at least a part of the slurry (not a liquid) to be continuously cycling throughout the reactor (*i.e.*, passing the same point of the reactor without a distinct start and end to the reaction). The formed polymer (solid) is withdrawn from the reactor. The Office Action neglects to recite support for the slurry loop reactor feature of the pending claims. During the interview, the Examiner interpreted line 41 of *Rouzier* as generally meeting the loop reactor limitation. However, it is clear from both the present claims and specification that the bypass line (cited by the Office Action as line 41) is not part of the loop reactor as claimed.

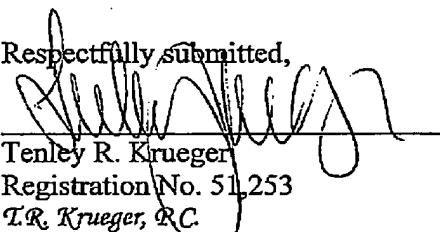
In addition, the bypass line referred to in *Rouzier* is not functionally equivalent to the bypass line recited in the pending claims. For instance, the bypass line of *Rouzier* requires a pump (which is also being used to reject the pump embodiment of the present claims), while it is clear from the instant specification that a pump is not part of the claimed bypass line.

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Claims 29-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Rouzier* in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,093,482 (*Weinreich*). The prior art made of record is noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the Office Action. Therefore, it is believed that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not deemed necessary for a full and complete response to this Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Having addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

Respectfully submitted,


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